

From: [Annie Thoe](#)
To: [Toby Thaler](#)
Cc: [Stuart Niven](#); [David Moehring](#); [O'Brien, Mike](#); [PRC](#); [Pacheco, Abel](#); [seattle-tree-ordinance-working-group@lists.riseup.net](#); [treepac_seattle@lists.riseup.net](#); [Carolyn Rodenberg](#); [Lynn Fitzhugh](#); [Jessica Dixon-Horton](#); [Anne Siems](#); [Jan Katzenberger](#); [Kaplan, Martin](#); [sabrosio@comcast.net](#); [ediebirk@gmail.com](#); [carriefrankenburg@gmail.com](#); [chuckaross@gmail.com](#); [BetsyLRoss@gmail.com](#); [sarahconeill@gmail.com](#); [Dihong Shao](#); [sdeforest@foxrothschild.com](#); [llsnider2000@yahoo.com](#); [Kim@kim-mulligan.com](#); [mblums@gmail.com](#); [judi@writeguru.com](#); [astanko@comcast.net](#); [carldahlman1@comcast.net](#); [brgovmail@rulifson.com](#); [patti.loesche@gmail.com](#); [bspinazze@sbcglobal.net](#); "Barbara Bernard" via [Magnolia Tree Keepers - All messages](#); [Pinto de Bader, Sandra](#); [Durkan, Jenny](#); [LEG CouncilMembers](#); [Bagshaw, Sally](#); [Harrell, Bruce](#); [Gonzalez, Lorena](#); [Herbold, Lisa](#); [Juarez, Debora](#); [Mosqueda, Teresa](#); [Sawant, Kshama](#); [Holmes, Peter](#); [Emery, Chanda](#); [Pederson, Art](#); [SCI Code Compliance](#); [Humphries, Paul](#)
Subject: Re: [treepac_seattle] Oct 1 massive tree removed before DADU application 3 days later
Date: Monday, October 28, 2019 5:24:41 PM

CAUTION: External Email

I suggest that the **Enforcement of Seattle's tree ordinance be with OSE and not with the office of SDCI**. OSE is about enforcing sustainability of the city and OSE should be holding the big picture of what sustainability means and enforcing that- particularly now as we face a dire climate crisis. **We also need better auditing of SDCI to make sure illegal activities like this one are prevented in the future.**

SDCI have enormous pressure from developers to waive tree protection in lieu of building permits and fees which directly support their own agency. The conflict of interest in SDCI with tree protection is clear. Even the construction workers I talked with recent clear-cut job sites confessed they have no choice but to take all the trees down. "We don't like to see the trees go either, but it's easier and more profitable for the developers to cut all the trees down - and they want to make as much money as they can..."

When I called to complain about the clear-cut of 28 trees on 115th NE and 20th NE, the DCI person told me over the phone, "Looks like they had permits approved...you know, developers are allowed to make as much money as they can." However, this wasn't true. They cut more trees down than was originally planned, including a healthy 100+-year-old big leaf maple on the neighbor's property. No fine.

When I asked these construction workers what they recommended to me on how we should save our trees and tree canopy, the foreman told me, "**The only way you can save trees is through a stronger ordinance.**"

So there you have it— even the workers of these developers want a stronger ordinance.

On Oct 28, 2019, at 3:18 PM, Toby Thaler <toby@loupploup.net> wrote:

The responsibility for enforcing Seattle's tree ordinance (existing or improved) should be removed from SDCI. As an agency that makes its living in part from developers' fees it has a conflict of interest each time someone wants to remove a tree (or cuts them down without asking or any consequencez).

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On 10/28/19 2:46 PM, Stuart Niven (via [treepac_seattle](#) Mailing List) wrote:

I second David's comments and remain shocked at the number of 'exceptional' trees being removed illegally and without punishment, as well as how many trees are permitted for removal without question simply to allow developers to raze properties without having to create tree protection zones, or consider existing trees in their plans.

Trees do not need humans but humans need trees. No trees; humans die. It is that simple.

Since SDCI is managed by complaints, I submitted a complaint about the removal of the exceptional tree which is visible in David's attached photographs, and on Google Maps street view. It was a large native Western red cedar which was a valuable asset to the neighbourhood and it is now gone, forever. Seemingly the inspector who looked at the property could not see the tree. SDCI really needs to improve the way it looks at plans for development so that all sites are checked for trees or evidence of tree removals related to the development so that property owners can be punished for removing trees and encouraged to retain trees as per SMC 25.11 and DR16-2008.

Please hire more arborists that know what trees are and how important they are, so that arborists look at plans involving trees and can work with developers to protect trees rather than having reviewers who know nothing about trees rubber stamp every plan without regard for the trees on a site. The current management of development in Seattle is not sustainable.

Since SDCI is funded by fees for permits; may I suggest attaching a considerable fee for the removal of trees, so much so that developers will want to remove fewer or those who can afford to remove them, are at least paying back into the department so these fees can pay for more arborists and a better system of tree protection?!

Thank you and kind regards,

Stuart Niven, BA(Hons)

PanorArborist

ISA Certified Arborist PN-7245A & Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ)
Arborist on Seattle's Urban Forestry Commission

www.panorarbor.com

Tel/Text: 206 501 9659

[WA Lic# PANORL*852P1](#)

On Sun, Oct 20, 2019 at 8:45 AM David Moehring

<dmoehring@consultant.com> wrote:

Yet another example that Seattle residents have been deceived and why a stronger tree ordinance and stronger enforcement are long overdue:

536 N 67TH ST

On Oct 1st 2019, TreePAC reported a massive tree in the process of being removed without a permit or any sign of a development. No reaction from the city except 'not my problem'.

Surprise, what shows up at the Department of Construction and Inspections just 3 days later after the tree chopping on October 4th is an DADU application along with several parking spaces being including within the area where the once massive environmental workhorse stood. In fact, the Department's recent EDMS record now clearly shows the stump of the removed casualty.

Primary Applicant: Akasha Whoolery has done many of these projects in the city of Seattle. Is this okay for our City stewards to look the other way? How will this be remedied for urban heat island, carbon sequestration, and natural habitats/ pathways?

This is an embarrassment.

David Moehring
TreePAC Board member

Per <http://web6.seattle.gov/dpd/edms/>

Check out the Record 005294-19PA:

Preliminary Assessment Report 136 KB 10/17/19 005294-19PA Building & Land Use Pre-Application

Site Photos 36 MB 10/11/19 005294-19PA Building & Land Use Pre-Application

PASV Authorization Letter 18 KB 10/08/19 005294-19PA Building & Land Use Pre-Application

PASV Authorization Letter 18 KB 10/08/19 005294-19PA Building & Land Use Pre-Application

PASV Authorization Letter 18 KB 10/08/19 005294-19PA Building & Land Use Pre-Application

Site Plan 105 KB 10/04/19

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List help: <https://riseup.net/lists>

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Toby Thaler PO Box 1188 Seattle, WA 98111-1188 206 697-4043